(b) According to NASSCOM, post September 11,2001 the industry has witnessed tightening of immigration requirements by most countries. This has led to more work being done offshore in India. As per the current visa regimes, Indian software professionals travelling to the US, UK and other countries for specific projects, are on the payroll of the Indian company and return to India after completion of these projects.

(c) NASSCOM-McKinsey study has brought out that if the Indian software and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry has to achieve an annual revenue of US$ 77 billion in 2008, then the demand for professionals will be approximately 1.1 million people by 2008. Supply of professionals, on the other hand, based on current trends, will be 8,85,000 professionals by 2008.

(d) Several policy measures have been taken to facilitate infrastructure! development and attract foreign investments in the area of IT for improving the position of employment in the country. Some of the measures are setting up new Software Technology Parks, Community Information Centres, e-governance applications, Media Lab Asia, networking of educational institutions and IT enabled services.

Following two initiatives are taken in order to address the problems which are likely to be faced by the Indian IT professionals in the coming years:—

* Promoting new markets (other than USA) like EU, Latin America, Asian region etc.

* Making offshore developments/services more attractive by granting fiscal concession and increasing confidence level of clients abroad to set up units in India.

Extradition treaty with Franc*

*329. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed an extradition treaty with France recently and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the names of countries with which extradition treaty is proposed to be signed during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes, Sir.The Hon'bte Deputy Prime Minister signed the extradition treaty with France on January 24,2003 in Paris. The treaty will come into force after the exchange of instruments of ratification.

(b) Extradition treaties were signed with France and Poland in 2003. After negotiations at official level, the texts of Extradition Treaties have been finalised with Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kuwait and Philippines and may be signed during appropriate bilateral visits at the Ministerial level in the current year.

Golden Quadrilateral Project

*331. SHRI VI JAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project-main quadrilateral to link major cities like Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai-Kolkata, with high-speed roads, would be completed this year;

(b) by when the arteries linking the other major urban centres to this quadrilateral are expected so that the potential of this project could be exploited; and

(c) the budgetary allocation for these arterial roads, the time-frame for their completion, the agency which would be implementing this project and the monitoring mechanism for keeping track of the progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) Target for completion of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) is December, 2004. With the incentives provided for early completion, it is expected that all the contracts on GQ will be got completed by this date except the work on 136 kms. which is held up due to alignment problem/litigations.

(b) and (c) Recently in the budget, 4-laning of another 10,000 kms. of National Highway has been announced. It is too early to give any details of time schedule and budgetary allocation for this work.